

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01

FEA-02 EB-11 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 /149 W

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R 251445Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6363

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2609

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IZ

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN SUSPICION OF IRAQ

1. SINCE OCTOBER WAR, THERE HAS BEEN AN ALMOST TOTAL BLACKOUT IN EGYPTIAN MEDIA OF NEWS ABOUT IRAQ. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, GOI KURDISH PROBLEMS HAVE BEGUN TO RECEIVE MODERATE COVERAGE IN PRESS. ALTHOUGH TONE OF REPORTING HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, UNDER-CURRENT OF GLOATING AT BAGHDAD'S TROUBLES WAS USUALLY APPARENT. NEVERTHELESS, AHRAH APRIL 12 PRINTED COMMENTARY ALMOST CERTAINLY CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY GOE, WHICH SYMPATHETICALLY PROVIDED BAGHDAD'S VERSION OF KURDISH PERFIDY. THIS SEEMED TO INDICATE GOE MIGHT BE SIGNALLING PUBLICLY ITS READINESS TO BURY THE PAST AND PATCH THINGS UP.

2. THIS WEEK, HOWEVER, IRAQ IS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN MORE FAMILIAR GUISE AS DISRUPTER OF ARAB SOLIDARITY. FIRST CAME THE REPORT THAT SALIH SARIYYA, ALLEGED LEADER OF ATTACK ON MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEM, WAS CARRYING ON IRAQI PASSPORT.

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THEN ON APRIL 25, ALL PAPER FEATURE SALIM LAWZI'S INTERVIEW

WITH SADAT IN WHICH PRESIDENT COMPLAINED THAT GOI HAD ORDERED WITHDRAWAL OF AN AIR FORCE SQUADRON FROM EGYPTIAN FRONT DURING DECISIVE LAST FOUR DAYS OF OCTOBER WAR. PRESIDENT IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING "WE HAVE HEARD OF THOSE (ARAB NATIONS)WHO TELL US THAT YOU (EGYPTIANS) HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE BATTLE BY ACCEPTING CEASEFIRE, AND WE WILL, THEREFORE, TERMINATE OUR AGREEMENTS TO SUPPLY YOU WITH OIL..." CAIRO WEEKLY AL-MUSAWWAR APRIL 26 ALSO ENGAGES IN BAITING IRAQIS BY RESURRECTING MAHDAWI TRIALS. THIS "CIRCUS", THE MAGAZINE POINTS OUT, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY SCURRILOUS ABUSE OF NASSER, THE VERY MAN THAT IRAQI MEDIA ARE NOW HAILING AS HERO.

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOE BELIEVES IRAQIS MAY BE ENGAGED IN ACTIVE SUBVERSION IN EGYPT. WE HAVE HEARD, TOO, THAT IRAQI COMMUNISTS WERE AT ONCE TIME SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN ACADEMY INCIDENT, THOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT, AND LATEST RELEASE FROM PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE MAKES NO MENTION IRAQ IN THIS REGARD. ABD AL-MUN'IM AL -NAGGAR, GOE AMBASSADOR TO BAGHDAD, WHO HAS BEEN IN CAIRO THIS WEEK, MAY HAVE BEEN RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS.
EILTS

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